

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/641,685

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 - 14 are in the application.

The present invention is directed to an improved image intensifier tube wherein the holding means for the microchannel plate (MCP) does not add length to the tube. This is accomplished by providing a longitudinally extending cylindrical member having a cylindrical interior surface in which there is a recess. The MCP is supported in the recess.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 as being anticipated or obvious over Blouch Patent No. 5,402,034 and/or Vrescak Patent No. 6,040,857. The rejections are respectfully traversed as applied to the new claims presented herewith.

Both Blouch and Vrescak disclose MCP support means which add length to the image intensifier tube. Neither patent shows or suggests supporting an MCP in a recess in a cylindrical collar as now defined in the claims.

Claim 12 defines interior and exterior cylindrical surfaces, a recess in the interior cylindrical surface but not in the exterior cylindrical surface for supporting the MCP, interior cylindrical portions on both sides of the recess, and an annularly shaped base extending radially from the external cylindrical surface.

The Blouch structure does not have a recess in an interior cylindrical surface but not in the exterior cylindrical surface. Thus, the nature of the recess in the present invention is fundamentally different than in the prior art structure of Blouch.

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/641,685

Similarly, Vrescak does not disclose these limitations or suggest a recess in an interior cylindrical surface.

Claim 13 and 14 recite the location of the base and the recess relative to the length of the cylindrical member as well as the relative size of the cylindrical surface and the MCP, which features are also not shown in suggested in Blouch or Vrescak.

Inasmuch as all claims are patentable, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Abramson
Registration No. 25,787

Epstein, Edell, Shapiro, Finnan & Lytle, LLC
1901 Research Blvd., Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 424-3640

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/641,685

APPENDIX

Version of Amendments to the Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend claim 4

--4. (Amended) The image intensifier of claim [2] 13 wherein the collar is supported in the housing by at least a peripheral retention member.